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Approved For Release 2000/08/17 : CIA-RDP61S00527A000100020073-5
Chief, St/I/R (Attn: [REDACTED]) 9 October 1956

THRU : Chief, D/S
Chief, S/ST

25X1A9a

25X1X4

Export of Technical Data [REDACTED] to Czechoslovakia for
Construction of Polyethylene Plant

REFERENCE: Conversation of 8 October with [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

25X1A2a

1. In the referenced conversation, you requested additional comments concerning [REDACTED] in connection with the evaluation of this report and requirements on the subject which you are preparing.

2. Polyethylene plastic is on International List III (Item 3750) and as such may be legally exported to the European Bloc. During the first six months of 1956, 36 metric tons were reported shipped to the Bloc by COCOM Participating Countries. COCOM considered the question of permitting the export of technical data on the manufacturing techniques involved after [REDACTED] raised this question on 31 August 1956. No determination has yet been made. Commerce has recommended that the U.S. delegation interpose strong objection in COCOM to this proposed export by [REDACTED] on the grounds that:

a. Polyethylene was rated as an International List I item until 1954, when it was downgraded.

b. Downgrading did not remove its strategic importance under agreed international criteria.

c. The Bloc is not known to be commercially producing polyethylene.

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A meeting of EDAC Working Group I is scheduled for 11 October on the subject of the reported [REDACTED] export attempt, and it would appear likely that that Group would recommend an approval to the [REDACTED] Government to have this matter discussed in COCOM, particularly in view of the pending [REDACTED] 25X6A

3. The mention in paragraph 1 of the report of "scarce materials needed for complete construction...." may refer to other embargoed materials. If information can be developed from the present or other sources confirming that this is the case, specifying the material, the [REDACTED] Government would be approached to secure their cooperation in preventing the movement of embargoed items. 25X6A

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RR/D/S/ST [REDACTED] mlc/4164/9 Oct 56
Distribution: 1 & orig. - Addressee
3 - S/ST

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